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LB 652, 878

SENATOR THOMPSON: As I see it, we have three issues, that Senator Pedersen had a bill and I had two bills that were merged into one bill, (LB) 652, three issues. Today we're really talking about the issues of renovation to the YRTCs. The bill Senator Pedersen is talking about deals with, in a way, to make sure the state meets its obligations to the offenders in out-of-home placements, some of which in some of the counties are being paid for by county property tax money, largely because of the inadequacies of the system. That bill is bracketed and will be hopefully scheduled. We're going to work on it over the summer and bring it back next session, and that would be the original (LB) 652. The other issues, the other issue of secure confinement will also be dealt with by this facility master plan. So, to answer your question, we still have a vehicle to deal with the county issues, as I see it, because there's an amendment pending to (LB) 652 that would become the bill that deals with that...those issues. I will work with Senator Chambers over the summer and some other senators who are interested in that issue and have it, hopefully, in the shape to bring back right away next session. As far as this, I probably will wait until after the plan comes out and see what the costs are and make a determination whether or not to put that back into (LB) 652 or to have a separate bill to meet the needs of the master plan and our next steps.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: It's very important to me to tell you people in the body that this is all one issue. Douglas County and Lancaster County, I know Douglas County's spending over \$3 million a year for out-of-home placements that the state should be picking up. So I want to make sure that that amount of money that we're talking about from them out-of-home placements that the counties are paying for, the property taxes are paying for that in Douglas County and the state should be paying for it. There's nothing in statute anywhere that says they shouldn't. That should all be brought together, because that has to be brought into the cost of these new institutions that are needed too. With the crime going down in adult crime, and crime going up in juveniles, we have the same thing in this